

### *Social Impacts and Environmental Justice*

The environmental document should discuss the following:

- a. Changes in the neighborhoods or community cohesion for various groups as a result of the proposed action. These changes may be beneficial or adverse, and may include displacement, splitting neighborhoods, isolating a portion of an ethnic group, new development, changed property values, or separation of residences from community facilities, etc.
- b. Changes in travel patterns, parking and accessibility (e.g., vehicular, commuter, bicycle, or pedestrian). If any cross-streets are terminated or roads closed the document should reflect the views of the involved city or county on such street closings. If parking spaces are to be removed it is necessary to evaluate number of spaces taken, number remaining and related impacts. Also the document should discuss on-street parking availability (existing and proposed).
- c. Highways have a noticeable impact on public and private community services and strongly affect settlement patterns. Impacts on school districts, recreation areas, religious and education institutions and services such as police and fire protection should be discussed in full detail. It is necessary to identify a wide range of positive and negative benefits related to the proposed project to provide a balanced perspective.
- d. The impacts of alternatives upon highway and traffic safety as well as upon overall public safety.
- e. The general social groups specifically benefited or harmed by the proposed action should be identified. Particular effects of a proposal upon the elderly, handicapped, non-drivers, transit-dependent, or minorities should be described to the extent these can be reasonably predicted. For example, where minority impacts may be a significant concern, the document should contain, when applicable, the following information broken down by race, color, and national origin: the population in the study area, the number of displaced residents, the type and number of displaced businesses, and the type and number of displaced employees. Secondary sources of information such as census data reports can be utilized for obtaining this type of background information. Changes in minority employment opportunities, the relationship of the proposed action, other Federal actions which may serve or affect the minority population, and proposed mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts upon minority populations should also be discussed.
- f. Executive Order (E.O. 12898) entitled "Environmental Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" was signed on February 11, 1994. Executive Order 12898 is primarily a reaffirmation of the principles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). The major difference between E.O. 12898 and Title VI is that the E.O. adds low income populations when examining the effects. To ensure that programs, policies, and activities are in compliance with the Executive Order

requirements, the following principles in planning the project development need to be applied.

- \* continue to identify and evaluate a broad range of alternatives
- \* continue to use a strong public involvement process
- \* continue to use a systematic interdisciplinary approach
- \* continue to identify, avoid, minimize, mitigate and enhance adverse effects and impacts

Currently, INDOT requires a review and discussion of this information in our environmental documentation. It is not believed that this will change the current procedures for the documentation of environmental effects. **The Environmental Assessment Section will keep consultants and others preparing environmental documents current on this requirement.**

The discussion should address whether any social/economic group is disproportionately impacted and identify possible mitigation measures to avoid or minimize any adverse impacts.